(*b*) the caste-war and taluk-war lists of the different categories of employees in the Police Department on 1st Karkadagam 1116 as referred to above?

**Rao Bahadur M. Narayana Menon** *(Commissioner of Police):* (*a*) & (*b*) In the opinion of Government the labour involved in collecting the information is not commensurate with the purpose served thereby.

**Mr. Shabdai S. Koder** *(Nominated):* Sir, because of the numerous supplementary questions, we who have sent only a few questions do not get the chance at all to ask supplementary questions with regard to them.

**Mr. President:** That being so, I pass on to the next item.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NAMES OF THE MEMBERS RETURNED TO THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Mr. President:** I have to announce that Messrs. E. Ikkanda Warriar, T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar and M. K. Devassy have been returned unopposed to the Standing Finance Committee for the year 1117.

The House will now take up voting of demands under Public Works.

## VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—*(cont.)*

### 28. Public Works—Rs. 9,75,929.

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, on this occasion of presenting the budget of the Public Works Department I would crave your indulgence to permit me to speak a few words on the working of the Department during the year that is passing and of our aspirations for the next. The year 1116 has been an extraordinary year. Apart from the general back-ground of commotion and strife occurring in the world outside there have been considerable unexpected events in this State also. Such unexpected changes bring in their wake temporary dislocation of the programmed works and this Department has consequently been working with some amount of undue strain. There was the cyclone of unprecedented violence. The storm raged for about five hours from 9-30 p.m. to 2-30 p.m. on May 26th. It was blowing at about a speed of about 200 miles per hour and the havoc it caused is well known. Along with this cyclone there were also heavy rains. The highest known intensity of rainfall in Cochin so far has been about 10 inches in 24 hours. But this happened only once during the past fifty years and it was registered by the rain gauge in the Mukundapuram Taluk. The rainfall which caused the floods of 1099 amounted to 9 inches on the first day, 6 inches on the second day and about 6 inches on the third, *i.e.*, 25 inches in 72 hours.

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